

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EUR-12

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R 050910Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4604

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MAR, SOPN, JA, K

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORDS CABINET CHANGES

SUMMARY. FRONT PAGE ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS ON CABINET RESHUFFLE HAVE DWELT ON CONFLICT OVER DETENTE POLICIES AND PRESIDENT FORD'S CONCERN WITH NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION. MOST ARTICLES HAVE CARRIED MOFA AND JDA STATEMENTS DISCOUNTING THE LIKELIHOOD OF MAJOR CHANGES IN U.S. ASIAN POLICIES OR DEFENSE POSTURE. FONOFF CURIOUS ABOUT MOTIVATION BEHIND SHAKEUP AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY TOWARD USSR. END SUMMARY.

1. NOVEMBER 4 EDITIONS OF ALL MAJOR DAILIES GAVE PROMINENT FRONG-PAGE COVERAGE TO THE REPLACEMENT OF SECDEF SCHLESINGER AND CIA DIRECTOR COLBY. THE FOCUS WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY ON SECDEF. ARTICLES IN ASAHI, YOMIURI, AND TOKYO SHIMBUN REPORTED THAT SCHLESINGER'S DISMISSAL WAS RELATED TO HIS "HAWKISH" ATTITUDE TOWARD DETENTE POLICIES. MOST ARTICLES QUOTED JDA MINSTATE SAKATA'S STATEMENT THAT WHILE SCHLESINGER'S DEPARTURE IS "REGRETABLE", IT SHOULD NOT IMPEDE US-JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION.

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2. EVENING EDITIONS CARRIED FRONT PAGE REPORTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE. MOST COVERAGE CENTERED AROUND MOFA'S JUDGMENT THAT

(1) SECDEF DISMISSAL RESULTED FROM CONFLICTING VIEWS OVER US-USSR RELATIONS

(2) US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED VIS. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION ORGAN

(3) THERE WILL BE NO GREAT CHANGE IN US ASIA POLICY.

ASAHI QUOTED MIYAZAWA AS SAYING CHANGE WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON JAPAN. JDA SOURCES WERE QUOTED ON THE NEED TO WATCH US POLICY TOWARD THE ROK IN LIGHT OF SCHLESINGER'S STRONG STAND ON THE "THREAT FROM THE NORTH".

3. NOVEMBER 5 EDITIONS EDITORIALIZED ON THE CABINET CHANGES:

ASAHI, YOMIURI, AND NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN ALL VIEWED THE RE-SHUFFLE IN LIGHT OF THE 1976 ELECTIONS--THE CABINET CHANGES WILL "EASE

TENSIONS" ON THE DOMESTIC SCENE AND REMOVE AN "OBSTACLE" TO A SETTLEMENT ON THE SALT TALKS. MAINICHI AND SANKEI EMPHASIZED THE APPARENT

TRIUMPH OF KISSINGER'S DETENTE POLICIES.

4. FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACT HAVE SO FAR LIMITED THEIR REACTION TO VOICING

CURIOSITY OVER MOTIVATION BEHIND SHAKEUP, AND QUESTIONING WHETHER SHIFTS MIGHT PRESSAGE SOFTER LINE TOWARD SOVIET UNION.

5. DECONTROL 12/1/75.

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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